(b) Expansion of elite forces (Special Forces) is a continuous process to enhance the combat effectiveness of the cutting edge of the Army.

Loss of Pistol surrendered by General Niazi

1474. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE'be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pistol surrendered by Pakistani General Niazi to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1971 war, has been found missing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the persons responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the pistol and the present status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The pistol, which was stolen in 2003 from the National Museum, was the personal weapon of Rear Admiral Mohammad Sharif, Flag Officer Commanding of the then East Pakistan Naval Forces. The matter is under investigation by Delhi Police.

Missing Spares of Army Helicopters

t1475. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint regarding missing spare parts of Army Helicopters has been lodged with the Juswania Police Post of Badwani district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these spare parts were being transported to Bangalore *via* road; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These stores were being transported in civil hired transport, from Delhi to Bangalore *via* Nasik.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.